



Trail News

November 6, 2014

From the *Meeteetse Conservation District*

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433
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Federal Natural Resource Management Hears Sage Grouse Update

(Taken from the October 18th, 2014 Issue of The Wyoming Livestock ROUNDUP)

Casper – The Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee met on Oct. 13 in Casper to discuss a wide variety of natural resources issues, including concerns about sage grouse.

Bob Budd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, and Jeremiah Rieman, policy advisor to Governor Matt Mead, both testified as to the work done by Wyoming to protect the bird. "This is probably one of the most perplexing species I have dealt with," Budd commented during the meeting.



Wyoming plan

Wyoming' plan for working with sage grouse, the Sage Grouse Executive Order, is in a good place, Budd said. "The Wyoming plan has been endorsed by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)," he explained. "No other plan has been endorsed to date." While some people argue that the Wyoming sage grouse plan goes too far, others argue the other way, Budd commented. "We can argue until we are blue in the face, but our plan is approved, which means they think the plan will protect sage grouse in Wyoming," he said. "Forty percent of the sage grouse population on the planet is in Wyoming. There is no reason for us to become more restrictive," Budd added. To read more, obtain a copy of the article by visiting the Wyoming Livestock Roundup website at www.wylr.net or email Saige Albert at saige@wylr.net.



The WY Brucellosis Coordination Team will meet November 12th at the Worland Community Center at 1200 Culbertson Ave in Worland, WY from 9am-4:30pm. Questions? Contact Dr Jim Logan at 307-857-4140 / jim.logan@wyo.gov, or email Dr Bruce Hoar at bhoar@uwyo.edu.

***** VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT *****

The **Lake DeSmet Conservation District** is now accepting applications/resumes for District Manager. The position is an "At Will", Full-Time position. Benefits include medical insurance and State of Wyoming retirement plan. The position will require knowledge and understanding of local agriculture and natural resources, additional demonstrated skills should include office administration and management, budget experience, computer skills in Microsoft Office programs, Geographical Information System skills, grant writing skills, leadership and communication skills. Must have a combination of training and experience equivalent to a 4-yr. college degree in a Natural Resource or agriculture related field plus three years of experience in a natural resource and management setting. For more details on the Position Opening and a comprehensive Job Description, along with where to send your applications/resumes, please refer to our website: www.ldcd.org. Other questions, please call (307) 684-2526, ext. 4.



NRCS Client Gateway - Farmers and Ranchers Needed to Test New Program

NRCS has been, for a number of months, working on a new Internet-based application, the Client Gateway, that will enable agricultural producers to perform a number of self-service actions with NRCS. The system should be available in early 2015. Through the Client Gateway, agricultural producers will be able to:

- Request technical assistance, such as a new conservation plan,
- Apply for financial assistance conservation programs, such as EQIP,
- Report completed conservation practices and request certification of those practices,
- Track payments due to the client.

A key part to preparing for its deployment is to conduct User Acceptance Testing (UAT). UAT is the opportunity for a group of agricultural producers to use the Gateway, hands-on, for two weeks. Our intent is that the testers will have their own actual conservation plan and contract data, but will be protected for security reasons. The UAT is currently scheduled to be conducted at your leisure in the next few weeks. NRCS will help to orient the testers as to the software and their responsibilities and tasks as testers. Having a good set of agricultural producers that will give the Client Gateway a good test and evaluation is paramount to a success deployment. **If you're available to help NRCS to test this exciting new technology during the next few weeks, please send an email to Jon Vrana with NRCS at Jon.Vrana@wdc.usda.gov or to Peter Bachmann at peter-bachmann@nacdnet.org**, and they will ensure that you get all the information you need and can answer your questions about the testing process. A fact sheet about the NRCS Client Gateway is [available](#) if you'd like to learn [more](#) about its capabilities, just email Jon or Peter.



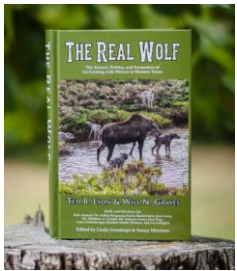
Wyoming
DEPARTMENT OF *Agriculture*

LOCAL PRODUCERS: DO YOU HAVE A WATER QUALITY PROJECT YOU NEED FUNDED?

WDA is looking for participants in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Water Quality Grant Program (FY 15-16) Meeteetse Conservation District (MCD) is asking local producers if they have water quality projects that might qualify for a grant as part of the Conservation District water quality state funding being targeted toward local Conservation District watershed planning efforts each fiscal year-biennium. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) is announcing that there is \$124,142.34 available in the WQ grant program for the second RFP. The WQ RFP is being issued on November 3, 2014 and will remain open until 5:00 PM on December 5, 2014. Please contact the MCD office at mcd@tctwest.net or call 307-868-2484 for more information.

Ted Lyon's Book "The Real Wolf" Reveals Facts & Impacts

(Volume 26, Number 25, October 25th, 2014 Issue of The Wyoming Livestock ROUNDUP)



When Ted Lyon, a renowned trial lawyer, former Texas State Senator, legislator and author, first began looking at the issue of reintroduction of wolves, he took the side of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), arguing that, through his experience, he couldn't see the agency taking steps that would harm wildlife. "I couldn't believe that the U.S. FWS would do something bad for wildlife," Lyon told the *Roundup*. "I defended the issue of putting wolves back in Yellowstone. How could 66 wolves put into Yellowstone and the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness kill all these elk and moose?"

After a pheasant-hunting trip in Montana in 2007, Lyon vowed to do research to find out whether or not wolves were impacting the ecosystem. "I tried to defend FWS biologists to the men I was hunting with, and these guys from Montana jumped on me...like a pack of wolves," he says. "It piqued my interest. Those hunters were right," Lyon adds, "and no one was telling the story." To read more, obtain a copy of the article, visit the ROUNDUP website at www.wylr.net or email Saige Albert at saige@wylr.net.

-----Reminders and Updates-----

November 11th ~ MCD Office Closed For Veteran's Day Holiday

November 12th ~ 6:00 p.m. MCD Board of Supervisors' regular monthly meeting at the MCD office, 1906 State Street, Meeteetse. The public is encouraged to attend.

November 17th thru 20th ~ MCD Office Closed – Staff will be attending Annual Convention in Sheridan, WY

November 27th & 28th ~ MCD Office Closed For Thanksgiving Holiday

Through its *Trail News*, the MCD hopes to keep the community informed, and all of us here, as your local government, encourage you to give us feedback, fresh ideas and comments so that the District can represent the Meeteetse community in the best way possible. For a copy of the Trail News by email, please call us at 307-868-2484 or send an email request to: mcd@tctwest.net. **Happy Trails to You!** Bernie, Blaise, Ginny, & Steffen

LAST CHANCE TO BUY A RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN



**1st Prize - 2014 John Deere
XUV 550 Gator**

(Special thanks to Stotz Equipment of Casper)



2nd Prize - Half of a Grass-Fed Beef

(Special thanks to Rafter H Cattle in Newcastle)

Donate \$25.00 (per Ticket)

Donations are tax-deductible and you need not be present to win!

Drawing will be held November 19th, 2014 in Sheridan at the annual meeting of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, and the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation.



**Drop by the Meeteetse Conservation District
office, 1906 State St, during office hours (9:00
a.m. & 3:00 p.m.) to pick up your ticket(s),
or you can make your check payable to WNRF & mail to:**

Meeteetse Conservation District

PO Box 237

Meeteetse, WY 82433